

Submitter: Artemio Paz
On Behalf Of: Health of Oregon School Children
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

I, Artemio Paz Jr, the former Chairman of the State Board of Education, wish to support SB426 for funding of IPM plans to protect the health of our school children, staff and faculty from toxic pesticides use on Oregon's PK-12 school campuses. While all community members should be safe on our school campuses, I am especially concerned for the effects of synthetic toxic chemicals on children and their developing vital organs. The inherent public trust to care for the health of our children is at risk without the funding and protocol transparency of a SB426 approval.

When the 2009 legislative approval of campus Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plans occurred, it never entered my mind nor likely the minds of the Board of Education members that implementation funding would be lacking. The disappointment I and many others feel in the transactional and irresponsible handling of funding IPMs for the protection of school children is troubling for those who subscribe to safe havens for school children.

Legislative approval for SB426 is necessary. It will protect my granddaughter from toxic pesticides, and all those in our communities that use Oregon's PK-12 school campuses. It will ultimately protect the health of our communities and reduce unnecessary health care financial burdens. I hope that your decision making discussions will support and approve SB426.

Respectfully Submitted,

Artemio Paz Jr.